

REMARKS

The following remarks are prepared in response to the Office Action of March 30, 2006.

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application, after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reexamination.

Phone Conference

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the phone conference of June 29, 2006. The Examiner suggested clarifying the claims such that the normal reproduction mode includes a play mode and the particular reproduction mode includes a fast-forward mode. The Examiner also suggested a first descrambled key for the normal mode and a second descrambled key for the particular reproduction mode. Applicant has amended the claims according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 11-12, 15, 17-19, 21-29 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,915, hereinafter Hirose) in view of Akiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,155, hereinafter Akiyama).

Independent Claims 1, 12, 15, 17 and 22-34

Claims 1, 12, 15, 17 and 22-34 have been amended to recite "a normal reproduction mode that includes a play mode and a particular reproduction mode that includes a fast-forward mode. Also, claims 1, 12, 15, 17 and 22-34 have been amended to recite "from the list of descrambling keys, a first group of descrambling keys being extracted in the normal reproduction mode, and a second group of descrambling keys being extracted in the particular reproduction mode."

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Hirose does not explicitly disclose a descrambling key corresponding to the predetermined unit of scrambled content in both a normal reproduction mode and a particular production mode. Applicant asserts that Akiyama does not remedy the deficiency of Hirose. That is, Akiyama does not teach or suggest a normal reproduction mode that includes a play mode and a particular mode that includes a fast-forward mode. Furthermore, Akiyama does not teach or suggest a first group of descrambling keys being extracted in the normal reproduction mode, and a second group of descrambling keys being extracted in the particular reproduction mode. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that claims 1, 12, 15, 17 and 22-34 are patentably distinct over Hirose in view of Akiyama and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 2-11, 13, 14, 16 and 18-21

Claims 2-11, 13, 14, 16 and 18-21 depend from independent claims 1, 12, 15 and 17, adding structural features that more particularly define the invention and further distinguish over the cited references and the prior art of record. For these reasons, and for the reasons set forth above for claims 1, 12, 15 and 17, the rejections of these dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 31, 2006.

By: Lisa Holstein



Signature

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Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



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